

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference NTK04-1624WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/JP2004/008679	International filing date (day/month/year) 15.06.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 17.06.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC		
Applicant CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION		

<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of <u>5</u> sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>																									
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <table><tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. I</td><td>Basis of the report</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. II</td><td>Priority</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. III</td><td>Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. IV</td><td>Lack of unity of invention</td></tr><tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. V</td><td>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. VI</td><td>Certain documents cited</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. VII</td><td>Certain defects in the international application</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. VIII</td><td>Certain observations on the international application</td></tr></table>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application
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Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report																								
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer																								
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.																								

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Box No. 1 Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-3, 6-23 as originally filed/furnished
- pages* 4, 5, 5/1 received by this Authority on 18.04.2005
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. 2-9 as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* 1 received by this Authority on 18.04.2005
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets fig. 1-3 as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (specify): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (specify): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	1-9	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	2	YES
	Claims	1, 3-9	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-9	YES
	Claims		NO
2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)			
Document 1: JP 10-270539 A (Mitsubishi Electric Corp.), 09 October 1998			
Document 2: JP 7-201961 A (International Business Machines Corp.), 04 August 1995			
Document 3: JP 2000-183143 A (Taiheiyo Cement Corp.), 30 June 2000			
Document 4: JP 8-330405 A (Applied Materials, Inc.), 13 December 1996			
<p>The invention set forth in claim 1 does not involve an inventive step in the light of newly cited document 1, document 2 cited in the international search report, and newly cited document 3.</p> <p>It cannot be considered to be especially difficult to conceive of arranging the A electrode (2) and the B electrode (3) of the invention that is disclosed in document 1 in the same manner as the annular electrode (100), the central hub (250) and the annular rim (220) of the invention that is disclosed in document 2.</p> <p>In addition, it cannot be considered to be especially difficult to conceive of employing the adhesive agent (4) for immobilizing the electrode layer (3) and the supporting substrate (5) in the invention</p>			

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that is disclosed in document 3 as the specific immobilization means for immobilizing the A electrode (2), the B electrode (3) and the insulating base (8) in the invention that is disclosed in document 1.

The inventions set forth in claims 3 and 6 do not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1, document 2 and document 3.

Document 3 discloses the feature of providing an insulating spacer (6) so that the electrode layer does not come into contact with the supporting substrate (5) (in particular, refer to paragraph [0021]).

The invention set forth in claim 4 does not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1, document 2, document 3 and document 4 cited in the international search report.

It cannot be considered to be especially difficult to conceive of employing the positioning pin (120) for positioning the electrostatic chuck means (112) upon the supporting platen (110) in the invention that is disclosed in document 4 as the means for specifying the immobilization positions of the A electrode (2) and the B electrode (3) in the invention that is disclosed in document 1.

The invention set forth in claim 5 does not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1, document 2 and document 3.

The feature of positioning two members by interlocking complimentary structures such as recesses and projections is well known and commonly used in the prior art, and the invention that is set forth in claim 5 could have been configured by merely employing the positioning technique in question when positioning the A

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electrode (2), the B electrode (3) and the insulating base (8) in the invention that is disclosed in document 1.

The invention set forth in claim 7 does not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1, document 2 and document 3.

Document 2 discloses the feature of forming a hard coat upon the surfaces of the electrodes (100 and 200) by means of anodization, and indicates that it is preferable to employ an aluminum alloy as the electrode material; therefore, it is thought that a person skilled in the art could have decided to substitute pure aluminum for the aluminum alloy, as appropriate.

The invention set forth in claim 8 does not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1, document 2 and document 3.

Document 3 presents an example wherein the adhesive agent (4) is a silicon adhesive agent (in particular, refer to paragraph [0020]).

The invention set forth in claim 9 does not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1, document 2 and document 3.

A person skilled in the art could select a silicon adhesive agent that exhibits a suitable viscosity, as appropriate; therefore, it is thought that a person skilled in the art could have decided to employ an adhesive agent that has a gel form or to employ an elastomer-based adhesive agent, as appropriate.

The invention set forth in claim 2 is not disclosed in any of the documents that are cited in the international search report, and would not have been obvious to a person skilled in the art.

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